(d) if so, the reasons therefor and by when the revision of the pattern of subsidy of plant protection chemicals is likely to take place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The incidence of pests, diseases and weeds varies from crop to crop. Accordingly, assistance for plant protection chemicals was extended at different rates under different crop production schemes.

(c) and (d) The grant of assistance on plant protection chemicals has been reviewed and rationalised under some of the schemes. Besides, the scope of Central assistance for promotion and adoption of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) has been enlarged.

Area under Foodgrains and Horticulture Crops

7124. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the area under cultivation of foodgrains and horticulture crops in the country;

(b) the number of farmers engaged in the production of foodgrains and horticulture Crops;

(c) the increase in Budget provisions or agriculture in the Central Budget for 1994-95;

(d) whether it is a fact that the increased provision will benefit only big farmers; and

(e) how Government propose to ensure welfare of small and marginal farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) According to Land Use Statistics 1990-91 (latest available), the area under cultivation of foodgrains and horticulture (which includes fruits, vegetables, condiments and spices, spices, coconut, drugs, narcotics and other plantation crops) was 140.20 million hectares.

(b) The total number of farmers engaged in the production of foodgrains and horticulture crops is not available. However, the number of cultivators producing all crops is placed at 110.6 million.

(c) Plan allocation for agriculture for 1994-95 has been increased by Rs. 90|- crores over 1993-94.

(d) The increased budget provision would benefit all the farmers including small and marginal farmers.

(e) There is a condition in the implementation of the crop oriented programmes that as far as possible, the benefit should flow to the small and marginal farmers and 25 per cent of benefit should flow to SC and ST farmers.

Cashewnut Production

7125. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem captioned "Cashew growers in dire straits as prices slumps" which appeared in the 'Indian Express' dated 22nd April, 1994; if so, what is the reaction of Government thereon;

(b) what has been cashew nut production in the country during the last three years, year-wise and state-wise figures;

(c) what has been the highest and lowest prices of raw cashew nuts during this period, year-wise and State-wise figures;

(d) whether the Central Government initiated any scheme or steps

to help cashew growers during this period, if so, the details of the scheme;

(e) the total amount spent in each year, the number of farmers who have been benefited; and

(f) whether Government will initiate policy formation in order to help cashew farmers on long term basis, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of Kerala has fixed procurement price of raw cashewnut at Rs. 22-24/-kg. this year under the Monopoly Procurement Scheme and has procured around 30,000 tonnes of raw cashewnuts so far. Last year when the Monopoly Procurement Scheme was withdrawn, the prices during the same period was Rs. 17-18/kg.

(b) The State-wise production of cashewnut in the country for the years 1990-91 to 1992-93 is given below:

Production in MT

	1990-91	1991-92	1992-93
Kerala	1,42,100	1,43,200	1,51,600
Karnataka	25,770	26,750	31,260
Goa	14,100	14,490	33,810
Maharashtra	29,510	31,960	25,590
Tamil Nadu	12,470	12,710	19,190
Pondicherry	280	290	290
Andhra Pradesh	37,770	40,360	44,880
Orissa	29,100	31,848	39,060
West Bengal	3,440	3,660	3,660
Tripura	50	50	50
TOTAL:	2,94,590	3,05,310	3,49,390

(c) The State-wise lowest and highest prices of raw cashewnut during 1991, 1992 and 1993 are given below:

Price : Rs./Qtl.

	1991		1992		1993	
	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.	Min.	Max.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Kerala	1450*	1600*	2100*	2300*	600	2590
Karnataka	850	2600	1400	3075	1200	2200

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Goa	1900	2700	2000	3225	2300	2650
Maharashtra . . .	1950	2500	2750	2950	1800	2500
Tamil Nadu . . .	1875	3250	2026	2595	1500	2600
Andhra Pradesh . .	1100	3500	1186	2700	953	2375

*Prices fixed by the Government of Kerala under Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

(d) Government of India implemented programmes for area expansion under cashewnut and adoption of plant protection measures during last three years. Under these programmes input support is provided towards cost of planting materials, fertilizers, and plant protection chemicals and for maintenance of gardens.

(e) The amount spent and the number of farmers benefitted during the last three years are given below:

Year	Amount spent (Rs. in in lakh)	Farmers benefited
1991-92	53.44	10800
1992-93	194.259	27600
1993-94	422.41	30500

(f) The long term measures to help the farmers in the strategy for development of cashewnut during VIII Plan include propagation of elite planting material of improved varieties, development of new plantations and replanting in a phased manner to increase the area and improve the status of uneconomical senile cashew plantations. During 8th Plan Government of India has allocated Rs. 45 crores for development of cashewnut.

Unattainable Targets in the Agriculture Sector

7126. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission fixed those targets for the agriculture sector which were on the higher side and could not be achieved, as stated by the Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, as per the newsitem published in the Hindustan Times dated April 9, 1994, captioned "Record production of Oilseeds, Cotton";

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that for the next year a target of 189 million tonnes for foodgrain production has been fixed, whereas the production during 1993-94 was 180.52 million tonnes, against a target of 188 million tonnes; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) The target of production of foodgrains for 1993-94 at 188.0 million tonnes fixed by the Planning Commission was considered relatively higher keeping in view the demand